



16 July 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 26 June 2024, requesting information about a Ministry web page. You asked whether or not Wage Subsidy cases in court are only for claims between 27 March 2020 and 9 December 2021. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

The information on the Ministry's website you refer to relates to sentencing outcomes from enforcement action taken by the Ministry for the COVID-19 Economic Supports administered by the Ministry. These primarily include the Wage Subsidy Scheme/s but may also include recipients of the Leave Support Scheme/s, and the Short-Term Absence Payment.

Enforcement decisions are made by the Ministry's COVID-19 Economic Supports Recovery and Response Panel, following investigation. Charges filed in court, in relation to prosecution decisions taken, may relate to any or all of the COVID-19 Economic Supports administered by the Ministry depending on the nature of the offending.

In relation to these schemes, the Ministry has carried out an extensive range of work in order to identify and investigate possible fraud or incorrect payments. These measures have included targeted payment reviews and investigations and follow-up action on complaints.

The following schemes may be included in the list of court cases referenced on the Ministry website:

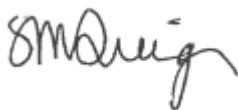
- Any of the Wage Subsidy Schemes from March 2020, including the Wage Subsidy August 2021 scheme (applications closed 9 December 2021).
- Covid-19 Short-Term Absence Payment (applications closed 17 October 2022).
- Covid-19 Leave Support Scheme (applications closed 10 October 2023).

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request for further information on Wage Subsidy cases in court, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

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Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services